

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1516

To further the purposes of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 by directing the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to carry out an assessment and demonstration program to assess potential increases in water availability for Bureau of Reclamation projects and other uses through control of salt cedar and Russian olive.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31 (legislative day, JULY 21), 2003

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. CAMPBELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To further the purposes of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 by directing the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to carry out an assessment and demonstration program to assess potential increases in water availability for Bureau of Reclamation projects and other uses through control of salt cedar and Russian olive.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Salt Cedar Control  
3 Demonstration Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) the western United States is currently expe-  
7 riencing its worst drought in modern history;

8 (2) it is estimated that throughout the western  
9 United States salt cedar and Russian olive—

10 (A) occupy between 1,000,000 and  
11 1,500,000 acres of land; and

12 (B) are non-beneficial users of 2,000,000  
13 to 4,500,000 acre-feet of water per year;

14 (3) the quantity of non-beneficial use of water  
15 by salt cedar and Russian olive is greater than the  
16 quantity that valuable native vegetation would use;

17 (4) much of the salt cedar and Russian olive in-  
18 festation is located on Bureau of Land Management  
19 land or other land of the Department of the Interior;  
20 and

21 (5) as drought conditions and legal require-  
22 ments relating to water supply accelerate water  
23 shortages, innovative approaches are needed to ad-  
24 dress the increasing demand for a diminishing water  
25 supply.

1 **SEC. 3. SALT CEDAR AND RUSSIAN OLIVE ASSESSMENT**  
2 **AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In furtherance of the pur-  
4 poses of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Ad-  
5 justment Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4600), the Secretary of  
6 the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Rec-  
7 lamation (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”), shall  
8 carry out a salt cedar and Russian olive assessment and  
9 demonstration program to—

10 (1) assess the extent of the infestation of salt  
11 cedar and Russian olive in the western United  
12 States; and

13 (2) develop strategic solutions for long-term  
14 management of salt cedar and Russian olive.

15 (b) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the  
16 date on which funds are made available to carry out this  
17 Act, the Secretary shall complete an assessment of the ex-  
18 tent of salt cedar and Russian olive infestation in the west-  
19 ern United States. The assessment shall—

20 (1) consider past and ongoing research on test-  
21 ed and innovative methods to control salt cedar and  
22 Russian olive;

23 (2) consider the feasibility of reducing water  
24 consumption;

25 (3) consider methods of and challenges associ-  
26 ated with the restoration of infested land;

1           (4) estimate the costs of destruction of salt  
2 cedar and Russian olive, biomass removal, and res-  
3 toration and maintenance of the infested land; and

4           (5) identify long-term management and funding  
5 strategies that could be implemented by Federal,  
6 State, and private land managers.

7       (c) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—The Secretary  
8 shall carry out not less than 5 projects to demonstrate  
9 and evaluate the most effective methods of controlling salt  
10 cedar and Russian olive. Projects carried out under this  
11 subsection shall—

12           (1) monitor and document any water savings  
13 from the control of salt cedar and Russian olive;

14           (2) identify the quantity of, and rates at which,  
15 any water savings under paragraph (1) return to  
16 surface water supplies;

17           (3) assess the best approach to and tools for  
18 implementing available control methods;

19           (4) assess all costs and benefits associated with  
20 control methods and the restoration and mainte-  
21 nance of land;

22           (5) determine conditions under which removal  
23 of biomass is appropriate and the optimal methods  
24 for its disposal or use;

1           (6) define appropriate final vegetative states  
2           and optimal revegetation methods; and

3           (7) identify methods for preventing the re-  
4           growth and reintroduction of salt cedar and Russian  
5           olive.

6           (d) CONTROL METHODS.—The demonstration  
7           projects carried out under subsection (c) may implement  
8           1 or more control method per project, but to assess the  
9           full range of control mechanisms—

10           (1) at least 1 project shall use airborne applica-  
11           tion of herbicides;

12           (2) at least 1 project shall use mechanical re-  
13           moval; and

14           (3) at least 1 project shall use biocontrol meth-  
15           ods such as goats or insects.

16           (e) IMPLEMENTATION.—A demonstration project  
17           shall be carried out during a time period and to a scale  
18           designed to meet the requirements of subsection (c).

19           (f) COSTS.—

20           (1) IN GENERAL.—Each demonstration project  
21           under subsection (c) shall be carried out at a cost  
22           of not more than \$7,000,000, including costs of  
23           planning, design, implementation, maintenance, and  
24           monitoring.

25           (2) COST-SHARING.—

1 (A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share  
2 of the costs of a demonstration project shall not  
3 exceed 75 percent.

4 (B) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The  
5 non-Federal share of the costs of a demonstra-  
6 tion project may be provided in the form of in-  
7 kind contributions, including services provided  
8 by a State agency.

9 (g) COOPERATION.—In carrying out the program, the  
10 Secretary shall—

11 (1) use the expertise of Federal agencies, na-  
12 tional laboratories, Indian tribes, institutions of  
13 higher education, State agencies, and soil and water  
14 conservation districts that are actively conducting  
15 research on or implementing salt cedar and Russian  
16 olive control activities; and

17 (2) cooperate with other Federal agencies and  
18 affected States, local units of government, and In-  
19 dian tribes.

20 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
22 this Act—

23 (1) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

- 1 (2) such sums as are necessary for each fiscal
- 2 year thereafter.

